

# **FISCAL NOTE**

## **SB 1621 - HB 2114**

March 11, 2005

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires each LEA to adopt a policy that prohibits harassment, intimidation, or bullying and to forward a copy of the policy to the Commissioner of Education by January 1, 2006. School employees, volunteers, and students are encouraged to report incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying to the appropriate school authorities. Any school employee who promptly reports an incident would have immunity against any suit based upon the reporting employee's failure to remedy the reported act. The bill encourages school districts to form harassment, intimidation, or bullying prevention programs and task forces.

### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

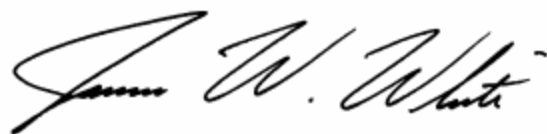
#### **Increase Local Govt. Expenditures – Not Significant**

##### Assumptions:

- The adoption by LEAs of a policy against bullying can be easily integrated into ongoing LEA responsibilities relative to student discipline and codes of behavior. The impact on LEAs is estimated to be not significant and can be handled within existing budgeted resources.
- To the extent LEAs choose to form harassment, intimidation or bullying prevention task forces, programs, and other similar initiatives involving school employees, students, administrators, volunteers, parents, guardians, law enforcement and community representatives, local government expenditures would increase. However, this would be at the LEA's discretion and any cost would depend on what preventive programs or other initiatives were implemented.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director